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# Research Subjects Engaged in Illegal Behavior: How Should Clinicians Respond?

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# The Subject

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- Joe is a 35 year male with a history of mental illness (complaints? difficulties?) for approximately X years.
- He sees psychiatrists for Y years?

# Diagnosis

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- In 2005, Joe comes to the NIH.
- He is diagnosed with depression.

# Study Enrollment

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- Joe enrolls in a drug treatment trial at the NIH Clinical Center for depression.
- The study excludes individuals who are active substance abusers.

# The Unit

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- Joe is placed on an in-patient unit that includes numerous individuals who have drug abuse histories.

# First Violation

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- During a routine, weekly room search staff members find the remains of a marijuana cigarette in Joe's room.
- A short time later Joe is overhead telling someone on the phone that he got "busted for smoking dope."

# Warning

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- Joe is reminded that using illegal drugs is a unit violation and that he will be removed from the unit for any subsequent violations.



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- Several days later, Joe acts agitated and curses at staff.
  - He is placed on 15 minute checks, and a body search is performed.



# Second Violation

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- The search uncovers a bag of marijuana and a lighter.
- Joe admits that the marijuana is his and claims that he has been smoking for 2 years.

# Response?

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- Remove Joe from the study?
- Remove Joe from the NIH?
- Call the police?
- Destroy the marijuana?